

**Graduate Research Symposium
Competition Rubrics
Updated 2019**

Research Abstract Evaluation

Student Name: _____ MS _____ OR PhD _____

Competitions: Oral Research Presentation & Poster Competition

Category	Excellent (4 pts)	Satisfactory (2-3 pts)	Poor (0-1 pts)	Enter Score here:
Background & Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficient background information is provided. - Clear goal/objective. - Hypothesis directly relates to goal/objective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More background information is needed. - Goal/objective is stated. - Hypothesis is absent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Missing background information. - Goal/Objective is missing or non-obvious. 	0-4 possible
Design & Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear experimental design and methods. - Will provide data to evaluate hypothesis and reach goals. - Well thought out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experimental design and methods will provide information related to objectives. - Author could be clearer on chosen design/methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cannot evaluate the appropriateness of methods or design because of the lack of detail. 	0-4 possible
Results & Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Results and conclusion are clearly stated. - Results reflect the data collected (methods). - Conclusion gives accurate summary of findings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Results and conclusion are stated but are unclear. - The link between the results and conclusion are weak. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The results and/or the conclusion are missing. 	0-4 possible
Implications and Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research advances body of knowledge in the given subject area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research is asking a valid question, but it is not clear on how it moves the field forward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is not stated how the research will move the field of study forward. 	0-4 possible
Overall Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Well written. - Free of grammar and spelling mistakes - Detail provided is appropriate for word limit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A few grammar or spelling errors. - Abstract has a good structure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many grammar and spelling mistakes. - Writing distracts from the research. - Lacking detail. 	0-4 possible

Total Score

Additional Comments:Abstracts account for 20% of the competitor's overall score. Abstracts are limited to a maximum of 250 words and must follow requested formatting.***Judges do not deduct points for formatting or word count. That will be done in final tallying of scores.**

Proposal Abstract Evaluation

Student Name: _____ **MS** _____ **OR PhD** _____

Competitions: Proposal Flash Talks

Category	Excellent (4-5 pts)	Satisfactory (2-3 pts)	Poor (0-1 pts)	Enter Score here:
Background & Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficient background information is provided. - Clear goal/objective. - Hypothesis directly relates to goal/objective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More background information is needed. - Goal/objective is stated. - Hypothesis is absent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Missing background information. - Goal/Objective is missing or non-obvious. 	0-5 possible
Design & Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear experimental design and methods. - Will provide data to evaluate hypothesis and reach goals. - Well thought out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experimental design and methods will provide information related to objectives. - Author could be clearer on chosen design/methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cannot evaluate the appropriateness of methods or design because of the lack of detail. 	0-5 possible
Implications and Significance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposal identifies clearly the research gap. - States how this research would advance body of knowledge in the given subject area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A valid question is proposed, but it is not clear on how it moves the field forward. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is not stated how the proposed research will move the field of study forward. 	0-5 possible
Overall Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Well written. - Free of grammar and spelling mistakes - Detail provided is appropriate for word limit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A few grammar or spelling errors. - Abstract has a good structure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many grammar and spelling mistakes. - Writing distracts from the research. - Lacking detail. 	0-5 possible

Total Score

Additional Comments:

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Research Presentation Evaluation Student Name: _____ **MS** _____ **OR** **PhD** _____

Categories: MS & PhD

Category	Excellent (4 pts)	Satisfactory (2-3 pts)	Poor (0-1 pts)	Enter Score here:
Background & Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficient background information is provided. - Research advances body of knowledge in the given subject area. - Clear goals/objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More background information is needed. - Not clear on how it moves the field of study forward. - Goal/objective is stated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Missing background information. - It is not presented how the research will move the field of study forward. - Goal/Objective is missing or non-obvious. 	0-4 possible
Design & Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear experimental design and methods. - Collected relevant data - Analyzed data appropriately. - Well thought out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experimental design and methods provided information related to objectives but was not clearly stated. - Analysis was presented but not with enough detail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor experimental design or methods. - Data collected did not appropriately answer question. - Analysis lacked enough detail or was completely absent. 	0-4 possible
Results & Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Results and conclusion are clearly stated. - Results reflect the data collected. - Conclusion gives accurate summary of findings and application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Results and conclusion are stated but are unclear. - The link between the results and conclusion are weak. - Conclusion lacks application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The results and/or the conclusion are missing. 	0-4 possible
Presentation Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate use of visual aids. - Made eye contact with audience. - Provided engaging answers to questions. - Spoke very clearly and held audience's attention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Referenced visual aids. - Made occasional eye contact with audience. - Answered the questions asked. - Spoke clearly, seemed comfortable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did not appropriately use visual aid. - Read from notes. - Lacked eye contact with audience. - Struggled to answer questions. 	0-4 possible
Overall Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Well prepared. - Relevant information was presented. - Visual aid was well designed and added to the presentation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presented a good story but needed a little more preparation. - Visual aid was appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student was unprepared. - Visual aid structure took away from the understanding of the research. 	0-4 possible

Total Score

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Poster Evaluation Student Name: _____ MS _____ OR PhD _____

Category: **MS & PhD Combined**

Category	Excellent (4-5 pts)	Satisfactory (2-3 pts)	Poor (0-1 pts)	Enter Score here:
Written Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poster contains all components: background, objective, methods, results, conclusions, and citations. - Figures and tables are used appropriately. - Depth of detail is appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poster contains all relevant components. - Lacks sufficient figures and tables to supplement the text. - Could have used either a little more or a little less detail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant components are missing. - Too much text is used. - Many grammar mistakes. 	0-5 possible
Project Merit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Well thought out project. - Properly executed. - Conclusion and implications were appropriate. - Findings filled a knowledge gap. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project methods/data gathered are related to the objectives. - Conclusions and results were not as strong. - Advances knowledge in area of study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poorly planned project. - Conclusions are not appropriate. - Findings do not fill a knowledge gap. 	0-5 possible
Presentation Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent knowledge and confidence. - Presented information in clear way. - Used poster in presentation. - Conversational and engaging in answering questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student understood project. - Could have been clearer in presentation. - Used poster somewhat to explain project. - Able to answer questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student not prepared. - Lacked detail in presenting information or provided way too much detail. - Did not use poster to explain research. - Struggled to answer questions. 	0-5 possible
Overall Appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Well-written poster. - Font and/or figures were able to be seen from a distance. - Structure and formatting made the poster visually pleasing and easy to follow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A few spelling or grammar mistakes. - Font and/or figures could be a little bigger. - Structure and formatting could have been improved but did not take away from poster. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many spelling or grammar mistakes. - Font and/or figures were either too small or too big. - The poster design was not easy to follow. 	0-5 possible

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Proposal Flash Talk Evaluation Student Name: _____ MS _____ OR PhD _____

Categories: **MS & PhD**

Category	Excellent (4-5 pts)	Satisfactory (2-3 pts)	Poor (0-1 pts)	Enter Score here:
Background & Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sufficient background information is provided. - Research advances body of knowledge in the given subject area. - Clear goals/objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More background information is needed. - Not clear on how it moves the field of study forward. - Goal/objective is stated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Missing background information. - It is not presented how the research will move the field of study forward. - Goal/Objective is missing or non-obvious. 	0-5 possible
Design & Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear experimental design and methods. - Will collected relevant data. - Planned data analysis is appropriate. - Well thought out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experimental design and methods provided information related to objectives but was not clearly stated. - Analysis was presented but not with enough detail. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor experimental design or methods. - Planned data collection did not appropriately answer question. - Data analysis plan lacked enough detail or was completely absent. 	0-5 possible
Presentation Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Appropriate use of visual aids. - Made eye contact with audience. - Provided engaging answers to questions. - Spoke very clearly and held audience's attention. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Referenced visual aids. - Made occasional eye contact with audience. - Answered the questions asked. - Spoke clearly, seemed comfortable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did not appropriately use visual aid. - Read from notes. - Lacked eye contact with audience. - Struggled to answer questions. 	0-5 possible
Overall Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Well prepared. - Relevant information was presented. - Visual aid was well designed and added to the presentation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presented a good story but needed a little more preparation. - Visual aid was appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student was unprepared. - Visual aid structure took away from the understanding of the research. 	0-5 possible

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